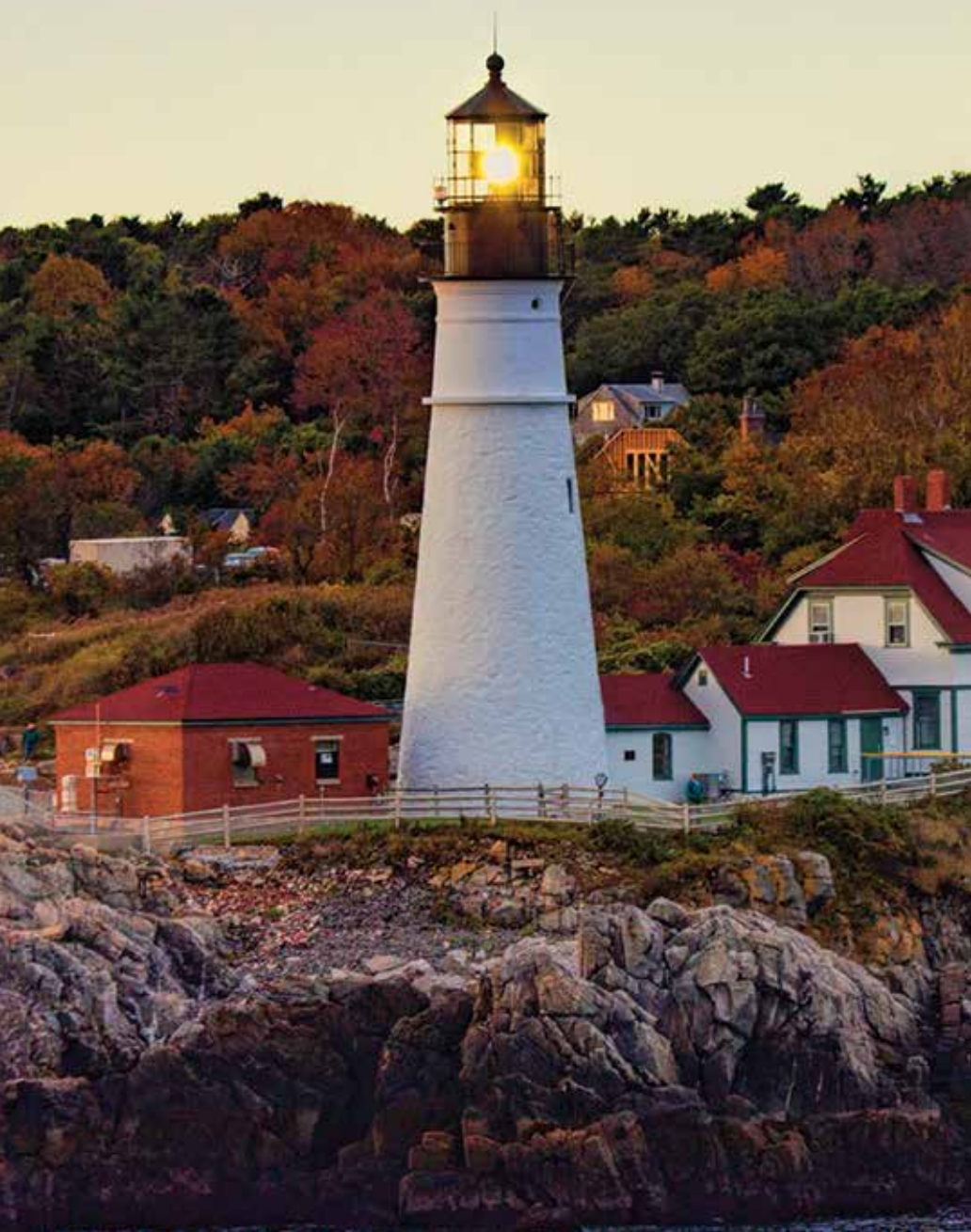


# *The* **BEREAN SEARCHLIGHT™**

Studying God's Word, Rightly Divided

October 2018



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*This month’s front cover is Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.*

The **Purpose** of the *Berean Bible Society* is to help you understand and enjoy the Bible. The **Mission** of BBS is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the whole counsel of God according to the revelation of the Mystery. Our **Goals** are to evangelize the lost, to educate the saved in “rightly dividing the Word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15), to energize the Christian life, and to encourage the local church.

The *Berean Searchlight* is the official organ of the *Berean Bible Society*, and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

**Editor:** Ricky L. Kurth/**Layout and Design:** Jessica Sadler (Book specials: Christine Mulholland)

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You can reach us at:

BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
N112 W17761 Mequon Road  
PO Box 756  
Germantown, WI 53022

Main Office: (262) 255-4750 — Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, CT

Internet: [www.bereanbiblesociety.org](http://www.bereanbiblesociety.org)

E-mail: [berean@bereanbiblesociety.org](mailto:berean@bereanbiblesociety.org)

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## A Note From the President

Dear Friends in Christ,

As a young man growing up, my family attended the annual *Berean Bible Fellowship* conference every June in Cedar Lake, Indiana. When the brochure for the conference arrived in the mail, I was always curious to see who the speakers were and when they were speaking. One name I always looked for was Pastor Wilson Watkins.

When Pastor Watkins preached the Word, he had my attention. He preached the Word with conviction. He said things from the pulpit in ways that stuck with me. For example, in one sermon about our spiritual blessings, as I recall it, he said, "We always talk about all our spiritual blessings in heavenly places. We always talk about how we rejoice in them all. But can you name them? They are throughout Paul's epistles. Name them." As a young man who was still growing in the Word, that convicted and challenged me. At the end of that sermon, after speaking on our spiritual blessings, he said, "Let's pray. [Long pause]. Thank you," and then he closed his Bible and walked down from the podium. Sometimes, that is all we need to say when we pray. We have *much* to be thankful for in Christ.

In another sermon I remember, Pastor Watkins said that, when he went to bed at night, he would pray this prayer: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, *Absent from the body, present with the Lord!*" Pastor Wilson Watkins is now absent from the body and present with his Lord and Savior. The program for the celebration of his life gave the years of his life this way:

*Sunrise:* January 24, 1927, *Sunset:* August 16, 2018. The life of Pastor Watkins was a bright light for Christ, and he made a deep impact in the lives of others. One comment about him on Facebook says it well: "He's a true example of how one man can make a difference."

Pastor Watkins always searched for the truth. In 1978, he came into the knowledge of the truth by reading *True Spirituality* by C. R. Stam. He then began preaching the Word, rightly divided, in the Baptist church he was pastoring. And that church became a grace church. We can be sure a great recompense of reward awaits him for his faithfulness.

Please pray for comfort and strength for his wife Mary, his family, and the members of his church, *First Philippiian Church* of Redford, Michigan.



Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kevin Sadler, President

# A New World Order



**“...I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;**

**“Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy...” (1 Tim. 1:12,13).**

As a former “blasphemer,” the Apostle Paul had good reason to be thankful that he had obtained mercy!

Don’t forget, just a couple of years before he was saved, the Lord Jesus Christ had said,

**“...All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: *but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.***

**“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: *but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come*” (Matt. 12:31,32).**

In light of these words, how could God have had mercy on a blasphemer like Paul?

If you’re thinking that perhaps he blasphemed a member of the Trinity other than the Spirit, think again. As a Jew who followed the Law of Moses *blamelessly* (Phil. 3:6), he would never have *broken* the Law by blaspheming God the Father (Lev. 24:16). And there is no concrete evidence he ever even *met* God the Son. No, it wasn’t until the Twelve were “filled with *the Holy Ghost*” (Acts 2:4) that Saul showed up and led the blasphemous persecution against them (Acts 7:57-8:3).

So when the Lord said that those who blasphemed the Spirit couldn’t be forgiven, “neither in this world, neither in the world to come,” this is one of the many proofs we have that with the salvation of Paul, God introduced *a whole new world*, a world called “*the dispensation of the grace of God*” (Eph. 3:1,2).

In this new dispensation, men are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8), and then are ordered to *walk* by grace:

**“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, *joying and beholding your order...***

**“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so walk ye in Him*” (Col. 2:5,6).**

How did you receive the Lord? *By grace!* Well, *as* you received Him, *so* walk in Him! God ordered the people of Israel, “Walk in My law” (Ex. 16:4), but “we are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:15)!

There’s just no getting around it, beloved. When God saved Paul, He ushered in a whole new world *and a whole new world order!* Are you walking in it? If Paul were here today, would he be “joying and beholding *your order*”?

—Pastor Ricky Kurth



# *In the Footsteps* **OF CHRIST**

*Bet She'an, Dead Sea,  
En Gedi, Jerusalem*

**PASTOR KEVIN SADLER**  
BBS President

## **BET SHE'AN**

We continued our tour of Israel this past May, travelling south from the Sea of Galilee toward the Dead Sea. There's not time to stop in every place, so our tour guide would often point out important sites as we were driving by them. This would cause a mad scramble to grab a camera and try to take a picture before it was too late. One time, I missed my chance to get a picture of the River Harod, where the Lord had Gideon's army drink from the river so as to scale his army down to 300 (Judges 7:1-7).

As we were driving by Mount Gilboa, however, I did get my camera up in time. This is where King Saul died in a battle against the Philistines (1 Sam. 31:1-6). Our tour guide, having seen these things many times, would refer to places like this very matter-of-factly. She would say, "Off to your right is Mount Gilboa where King Saul was killed." For us, seeing it for the first time, we were blown away to actually see these biblical sites that we read of in Scripture.

We then came to Bet She'an. It was here, after Saul and his sons were killed (including Jonathan, David's best friend), that the Philistines hung their bodies on the city walls.

**"...when the Philistines came to strip the slain...they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. And they cut off his head,**



**and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines... and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan” (1 Sam. 31:8-10).**

On top of this large hill was where the biblical city of Beth-shan once stood, and where the bodies of Saul and his three sons were hung on the city walls (1 Sam. 31:12). Our tour guide gave those who were interested one hour to hike to the top and back. Four of us were adventurous enough to give it a shot: Dr. Robert Nix, Pastor Andy Kern, Pastor Don Hosfeld, and myself. We huffed and puffed and had to take a couple breaks, but we made it to the top (and we made it back in time too—barely). This is the view from the top, looking down at an important Roman city whose ruins date from the time of Christ.



The tour guide did a great job of informing us what to expect at each stop, as to the type of terrain we would be walking and how long we would be there. They gave us times for breaks along the way if it was a long walk. Most of the sites were very easy to manage. And like at Bet She'an, we were afforded the opportunity to climb the hill, but it was up to each individual person. The rest of our group walked among the ruins, rested, and took pictures.

## DEAD SEA

From Bet She'an, we traveled farther south and stopped by the Qumran caves about a mile from the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the largest-ever find of biblical texts and manuscripts in one place. Parts of every book of the Old Testament were found, except for the Book of Esther. Included in the discovery was the full Book of Isaiah. Items were found in twelve caves; 90% of the scrolls and texts were found in Cave Four. When word got out about the value of the biblical manuscripts and ancient texts, there was a “scroll rush.” Many people came to Qumran to scour the many caves in search of more scrolls.



Across the Dead Sea to the east, one can see Mount Nebo. Our guide pointed it out to us. It was the dark-colored mountain in the distance. This is where the Lord gave Moses a view of the Promised Land before he died.

You may recall the reason that the Lord showed Moses the Promised Land from Mount Nebo but did not allow him to enter. In Exodus 17, the Lord instructed Moses to strike the rock at Horeb to give the children of Israel water to drink.

**“Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel” (Ex. 17:6).**

Later during Israel’s wandering in the wilderness, the people murmured and were again in need of water to drink. The Lord told Moses only to speak to the rock (Num. 20:8). Instead, out of his frustration with the children of Israel, “Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly...” (Num. 20:11).



The Apostle Paul teaches that the Rock in the desert represented Christ:

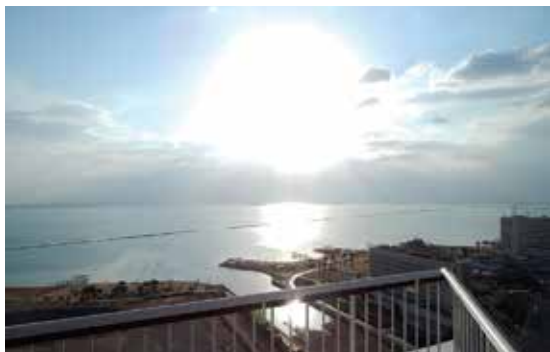
**“...they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ” (1 Cor. 10:4).**

The Lord instructed Moses only to speak to the rock to preserve the picture created in Exodus 17. When the Lord instructed Moses to strike the rock in Exodus 17, it was a type of Christ the Redeemer being stricken only once at Calvary. It illustrated the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ at the Cross to bring forth, in perpetuity, the water of life eternal (John 4:14; Rev. 21:6). Thus, it was a serious spiritual matter when Moses struck the rock a second time, rather than believing God and just speaking to it. When Moses struck the rock a second time, he distorted the picture of truth God created in Exodus 17 of the once-for-all sacrifice of His Son. As a result, the Lord did not permit Moses to enter the Promised Land. He was only allowed to view it from Mount Nebo.

Looking at Mount Nebo, one’s first thought is of Moses dying there after only viewing the Promised Land. Moses misrepresented God to the people, and for that he was sorely punished. It’s still a very serious matter today to misrepresent God when we share His Word and His message of salvation. It is vitally important to rightly divide the

Word of truth, to ensure that we hold out God's message for the world today: "the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery" (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:1-9) and the pure gospel of salvation by grace through faith alone (Eph. 2:8,9).

After visiting Qumran, we lodged at a nice hotel on the shore of the Dead Sea where all of us pastors and church leaders went for a swim. The salt concentration of the Dead Sea is 34.2%. By comparison, the salt concentration of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans are 3.5%. There are no fish in the Dead Sea because they cannot survive the high salt level. There are very few boats on the sea because the salt corrodes them. It's literally a "dead" sea with no life in it or on it.



It is, however, fun to swim in it. It is a simple thing to flip on your back and float, and even just sit in it and bob. The difficult thing is to stand back up because of the buoyancy of the water. After we all took a swim, Pastor Jeff Bertram told me that the BBS should publish a *Berean Searchlight* Swimsuit Edition with pictures of all us pastors in our swimsuits. That's a scary thought! I told him our subscription list would take a nose dive if we did.

Ezekiel was given a fascinating prophecy regarding the Dead Sea. When Christ establishes His millennial kingdom, a river will flow out of the temple, a river that will flow to the Dead Sea and vitalize it:

**"Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh" (Ezek. 47:8-9).**

One day the Dead Sea will be a living, freshwater lake! The waters will be healed, and fish will fill it. The dry desert landscape of this entire region of the Dead Sea will change dramatically and flourish when Christ reigns on the earth (Ezek. 47:10-12).





## EN GEDI

Leaving the area of the Dead Sea and on our way to Jerusalem, we stopped at En Gedi. En Gedi means “fountain of the kid” or “spring of the goat.” En Gedi is an oasis with a large waterfall, and wild goats inhabit this area. It was here that David once hid from King Saul. King Saul later received word about David hiding in En Gedi.

**“And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of En-gedi. Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. And he came to...where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet [take a nap]: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave...Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily” (1 Sam. 24:1-4).**

King Saul was trying to find and kill David. Here David finds Saul and is given the opportunity to kill him, but David refuses to do so, even at the urging of the men with him (1 Sam. 24:4). Instead, as Saul was taking a nap in the cave, David quietly sneaked over and cut off the skirt of King Saul's robe. After David did this, he felt guilty for even doing that (1 Sam. 24:5-6)! David did not take lightly the fact that Saul had been anointed as Israel's king according to the will of God. Though Saul was trying to kill him, out of his deep respect for the Lord, David knew that he needed to respect the king.



It was amazing to walk the path through the park at En Gedi and think that, in one of these caves, this episode from the Bible took place. Everywhere in Israel is like that. Everywhere there are places of biblical significance. It makes the Bible come alive.

## JERUSALEM

**“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem...” (Matt. 20:18).**

Often in Scripture, we read verses about going “up” to Jerusalem. I have a whole new appreciation for that having been there. Geographically, Jerusalem is on a plateau in the Judean mountains. Its elevation is 2575 feet. We came from the area of the Dead Sea, which is about 1400 feet below sea level. Making that climb “up” to Jerusalem from the desert, our tour bus was grinding and whining most of the way.



As we neared Jerusalem, the tour guide told us to prepare ourselves because we were going to enter a tunnel and, at the other end of the tunnel, we would see the city. When we came out of that tunnel and the city burst into sight, it was a powerful moment. I get goose bumps just writing about it. How significant Jerusalem has been and will be in the plans and purposes of God! I was thankful to the Lord to be there and to see it.

We immediately drove to the top of the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives affords a magnificent view of the Temple Mount and the city. Looking out from there, one can very slowly begin taking in everything as it pertains to Scripture.

First, one can't help but notice the Dome of the Rock. It is the third holiest site for Muslims, after the Kaaba in Mecca and the "Mosque of the Prophet" in Medina. When I looked at the dome, I saw it as God's way of keeping the temple from being built under grace. A war would start if anyone so much as touched that building. But today we are not under the law, but under grace (Rom. 6:14). We don't need the temple today in the plans and purposes of God, for each believer in Christ is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19)!

As I was looking at the Dome of the Rock, it struck me that this is the Temple Mount. This was where Solomon's Temple once stood and where the glory of God filled that temple, and God's presence dwelt in a physical location on the earth. Looking at the walls around the Old City, I realized that I was looking at the Eastern Gate. This made me



think of Ezekiel's vision of the glory of the Lord departing from Solomon's Temple because of the idolatry taking place within it. The glory of the Lord went out of the "east gate of the LORD's house" (Ezek. 10:19), and then "stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city" (Ezek. 11:23), right where I was standing on the Mount of Olives, and then was gone.

Then I realized that I was also standing where the Lord Jesus Christ was caught up to heaven at His ascension (Acts 1:9-12). And He will return one day at His Second Coming to Israel, "And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east" (Zech. 14:4). And the Lord Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah, will enter through the Eastern Gate when He comes to establish His kingdom on the earth (Ezek. 43:1-8).


As I stood there, I thought of this being the view the Lord had on His triumphal entry into Jerusalem when He came riding into the city on the colt, the foal of a donkey (Zech. 9:9): "And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice...Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord..." (Luke 19:37-38). Then I thought of how much the Lord loved Jerusalem and its people, and wept openly as He rode into the city: "And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes" (Luke 19:41-42).





At the base of the Mount of Olives is the Garden of Gethsemane, where our Lord fervently prayed in the hours before He was crucified. Looking down into the valley below, it struck me that I was looking at the Kidron Valley. The Lord crossed that valley many times when He stayed in Jerusalem overnight on the Mount of Olives (John 8:1-2). This is the Valley of Decision, the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:1,2,14-16), where the multitudes from the army of the Anti-Christ will be gathered for the Battle of Armageddon. That battle will extend for 200 miles (Rev. 14:20), from Mount Megiddo in the north to Edom in the south. The Kidron Valley and the Mount of Olives will be the center of the action when Christ returns at His Second Coming.

Looking at the Old City of Jerusalem, it also came to mind that I was looking at the area where Abraham was going to offer his son, Isaac, on the altar on Mount Moriah (Gen. 22:2-18), which typified the Cross of Christ. It was here that our Savior, *God's own Son*, walked, taught, and died for the sins of the world and rose again! This is where Christ will return, establish His millennial kingdom, build His temple, and rule as King over all the earth. God is faithful to Israel regarding her earthly hope, and God is faithful to us, the Church, the Body of Christ, regarding our heavenly hope.

If you can't tell, I was spiritually uplifted from being in Israel. When I got discouraged about having to leave a site that really spoke to my heart, such as the Mount of Olives, I would be encouraged again by reminding myself about the tour next year and that I would be back. I am hopeful that you'll be able to join us. The maximum number of people for the tour is how many will fit in one bus (45 people). You will not regret the decision to visit Israel. *To Be Continued!* 



## May 7-16, 2019—BBS/BBI Tour of Israel

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Best of Israel" group on Facebook!

You can watch a promo video and find links for more information about the tour.



# The God Who Cannot Lie Delivers on His Promise!



PASTOR RICKY KURTH  
Editor

**“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2).**

The story is told of a rather simple-minded factory worker who got called into his supervisor’s office for talking back to his foreman. His supervisor asked, “Did you call your foreman a liar?” He admitted that he had. “Did you call him stupid?” He had to admit he’d called him that too. “Did you call him an opinionated narcissistic egomaniac?” To which the simple-minded man replied, “No, but could you write that one down so I can remember it?”

Of course, no one would ever accuse *God* of lying—or would they? There must be a reason the Apostle Paul wrote to Titus about the hope of eternal life, “which God, *that cannot lie*, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2). Why would Paul have to vouch for God’s integrity by stating that He cannot lie? Surely *somebody* was thinking that God *could* lie, or it wouldn’t have been necessary to affirm the opposite. And it isn’t likely that it was Titus who was questioning God’s character.

But Titus was stationed on the island of Crete (Titus 1:5), and the Cretians to whom he ministered used to worship the Greek god Zeus. And Zeus was said to have been *born* in Crete, making him *extra* popular on that Mediterranean island. And according to Greek mythology, Zeus was *always* lying, especially to his wife Hera, to cover up the affairs he had with gods, nymphs, and mortal women. So the Cretians needed reassurance that the God of the Bible *wasn’t* lying in promising them eternal life, an assurance that Paul was more than happy to give them when Titus read his epistle aloud to them, as he was sure to do (cf. Col. 4:16).

By the way, did you ever wonder why the gods of the Greeks were such moral degenerates? Why would anyone invent gods who were guilty of lying, cheating, stealing, fornicating, and even murder? It was because if *your gods* acted that way, it gave *you* an excuse to act that way! The Greeks invented such gods to justify *their own* sinfulness! They reasoned that the gods couldn’t righteously deny men

entrance into heaven because of their sins *if they themselves* were just as sinful.

How different is the God of the Bible! The Bible doesn't justify men by lowering God to their lowly level of wickedness. The Bible justifies men *by lifting them up to God's level of righteousness!* As the Lord Jesus Christ hung on Calvary's cross, God made Him "to be sin for us, who knew no sin; *that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him*" (2 Cor. 5:21). That means if you've trusted Christ as your Savior, *you have the very righteousness of God*, so God Himself is no more righteous than you are! And that means God can't righteously deny you entrance into heaven, for He has lifted you up to His level of righteousness.

### **A Revolutionary Dispensational Revelation**

And Paul says that it is this God, the God who cannot lie, who promised us eternal life before the world began. But in writing these words to an uncircumcised Gentile like Titus (cf. Gal. 2:3), Paul was introducing *a revolutionary dispensational revelation*. I mean, as you read through the Old Testament, it appeared that God only promised eternal life *to the people of Israel*. Gentiles could be saved in those days, of course, but they had to come to God for salvation through the Jews. With no promise of eternal life of their own, the only hope of the Gentiles was to get in on the promise of life that God made to His people in Israel.

Nor did this change in the New Testament, as we see when the Lord explained to a Gentile

woman that "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). Clearly, even in the New Testament it was still true that if a Gentile wanted to get saved, he had to get in on Israel's promise of eternal life by becoming what was called a proselyte (Acts 2:10). A proselyte was a Gentile that had converted to Judaism.

That means that while God *made* the promise of eternal life to Gentiles before the world began, He didn't *reveal* this promise until He made Paul "the apostle of the Gentiles" (Rom. 11:13) and sent him to the Gentiles (Acts 22:21; 26:17). That's why, in speaking of this promise of eternal life, Paul added,

**"But hath in due times manifested His word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour" (Titus 1:3).**

When God finally decided to *reveal* His promise to give Gentiles like Titus eternal life apart from the instrumentality of Israel, He chose the Apostle Paul to break the news. The due time had finally come to reveal His promise!

### **It Was About Time!**

But what does that phrase "due time" mean? Well, that exact phrase is only used a few times in the Bible. In its first occurrence, some unbelieving Jews were persecuting some believing Jews, and the believers were wondering how long God would wait to judge those persecutors. God answered them,

**"...their foot shall slide in due time...the LORD shall judge His people, and repent Himself for His servants, when He seeth that their power is gone" (Deut. 32:35,36).**

God told those persecuted believers, as it were, “I’ll judge the unbelievers among My people *in due time*, and the due time will come when I see that My servants (you believers) have no power to save yourselves from their persecution.” So the phrase “due time” must refer to a time when God sees that the power of men is gone.

That helps us understand the *next* time the phrase “due time” appears:

“...what does that phrase  
‘due time’ mean?”



**“For when we were yet without strength, *in due time* Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6).**

God waited until He saw that neither Jews nor Gentiles had the strength—the power—to save themselves from their sins to have Christ die for us. The Gentiles had demonstrated that they had no power to save themselves in Genesis 1-11. That’s why, speaking of them, Paul says “God gave them up” and “God gave them over” (Rom. 1:24,26,28). And that’s also why He raised up a new nation in Genesis 12, and promised Abraham that He would make *him* a great nation (Gen. 12:1-3).

But when God gave Abraham’s nation a Law, and they boasted they could keep it (Ex. 24:7), God

gave them 1500 years to try. 1500 years later, God saw that even the people who had His Law, and all of the other blessings God gave them, had no power to save themselves. And when God saw that neither Jews nor Gentiles had the strength to save themselves (Rom. 3:9), the due time came for Christ to die for the ungodly.

### Time to Testify

Now when it came to *testifying* that Christ had died for the ungodly, God began to testify that He would die for ungodly *Jews* when His prophet Isaiah declared that He would die “for the transgression of *my people*” (Isa. 53:8). Of course, there is no evidence that anyone in Israel *understood* Isaiah’s words, for he was a prophet, and even the prophets themselves often didn’t understand what they were prophesying—*especially* when it came to “the sufferings of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:11). God comforted them by revealing to them that their words were meant to be understood by future generations (v. 12).

This didn’t change when we come to the New Testament. When John the Baptist pointed at the Lord and exclaimed, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), there is no indication that anyone understood the words he spoke that day, not even the 12 apostles. When the Lord later foretold His death to the Twelve, they showed that they didn’t even understand that He would have to die, let alone that He would die for their sins (Luke 18:31-34). This despite the fact that they

heard the Lord Himself testify that He had come “to give His life a ransom *for many*” (Matt. 20:28)—that is, the many *in Israel*.

It isn’t until you come to the Apostle Paul’s writings that you read that “Christ...gave Himself a ransom *for all*, to be testified *in due time*” (1 Tim. 2:5,6). Paul is the first Bible writer to testify that the blood that the Lord “shed for many” in Israel (Matt. 26:28) was shed for Gentiles as well.

No wonder God waited until Paul’s ministry to reveal His promise to give eternal life to the Gentiles! He couldn’t very well reveal a promise to give us eternal life until He had *also* revealed how He would *pay* for that eternal life, for that would have opened Him up to charges of unrighteousness. But once Paul revealed that God had set Christ forth “to be a propitiation through faith in His blood” (Rom. 3:25), it could be declared that God is *righteous* in saving sinners from their sins, that He could

be “just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (v. 26).

Finally it was clear that the Gentiles didn’t have to become Jews to get the eternal life that God promised the Jews under the Law. The Apostle Paul revealed that God had promised *them* eternal life *before the world began*. That’s what Paul meant when he said that God had “in due times manifested His word through preaching, *which is committed unto me*” (Titus 1:3). What a revolutionary dispensational revelation was introduced with the ministry of the Apostle Paul!

Are you doing your part to get others to see the uniqueness of Paul’s message? Remember, the message that he says here was “committed” to him was the message he later committed to Timothy (1 Tim. 1:18; 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:14), who later committed it to others (2 Tim. 2:2), who committed it to others, *who committed it to us*. God is counting on us to get the message out. Let’s not let Him down.



## Estate Planning

An 8-year-old boy in the church I pastor enjoys cooking with his mom, and thinks he might want to be a chef. His mom suggested he begin selling meals to his uncle, and since his pastor hates to cook, I’ve been buying some too! After I pay him, his mom guides A.J. to our offering box, where he gives a portion to the Lord.

If your children are grown, one of the ways you can teach them the eternal value of supporting God’s work is to remember *Berean Bible Society* in your will. If you’ve been blessed by our ministry, remember Paul’s admonition to “let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in *all good things*” (Gal. 6:6), including your estate planning. You’ll be eternally glad you did.

—Pastor Kurth



# SEALED

## *in the Pit*



(An excerpt from Revelation Volume 4,  
which will be available later this year.)

PASTOR KEVIN SADLER  
BBS President

**“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season” (Rev. 20:1-3).**

Satan will be seized and bound with “a great chain” by an angel, and then he will be hurled into the center of the earth and shut up in the pit. We are to take a literal interpretation of the Bible unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. That’s how God intended His Word to be understood and interpreted. When the Bible is not taken literally, our understanding of the Word is left to the opinions and imaginations of fallible mankind....

After the Savior’s death on the cross, a *seal* was placed on the stone at the entrance of Christ’s tomb. Matthew 27:66 tells us, “So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.” On resurrection morning though, the seal was broken and the stone was rolled away, because Christ had conquered the grave. That seal could never have kept Him in that tomb. He is “the Resurrection, and the Life” (John 11:25). He is the “Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending...which is, and which was, and which is to come, *the Almighty*” (Rev. 1:8).

A “seal” will be set upon the devil when he is shut in the bottomless pit. He is powerless to break that seal, demonstrating that he is a created being. If Satan could break this seal, he absolutely would. He will have 1000 years to try to break it, but he will fail.

This contrast shows that we who believe and are on the Lord’s side are on the side of power, victory, and hope. Those who are outside of Christ are on the side of weakness, defeat, and hopelessness. By faith in Christ alone, the unbelieving can be rescued and “delivered...from the power [authority] of darkness, and...translated...into the kingdom of His dear Son” (Col. 1:13).

The seal placed upon Satan ensures that he will no longer deceive the nations during the 1000 years of Christ's earthly kingdom. As we read in Revelation 20:3: "and set a seal upon him, *that he should deceive the nations no more.*" Isaiah 14:12 says that he "weaken[s] the nations," and he does this by his deceptions. Satan will be sealed in his prison, giving blessed relief to the earth and its inhabitants by his absence. He is the one "which deceiveth *the whole world*" (Rev. 12:9). With Satan locked up, the whole world will be set free from his deceits and wiles.

After the 1000-year phase of Christ's earthly kingdom is "fulfilled... he must be loosed a little season." Satan will not be rehabilitated during his 1000-year sentence. God reveals to us that Satan's nature will not change even after 10 centuries of confinement. He will remain proud, defiant, and at enmity against God. His hatred of God will only burn hotter after the 1000 years. By Satan being released, God also reveals that mankind doesn't change either. After 1000 years, we see how susceptible mankind will still be to Satan's deceptions and methods, as the number who are deceived and follow him will be "as the sand of the sea" (Rev. 20:8).



The loosing of Satan for a short time is part of God's sovereign plan: "he *must* be loosed" (v. 3). Everything God does is good and righteous and has a purpose. Mankind has a free will and, at the close of the Millennium, just prior to the eternal state, God gives the inhabitants of Christ's earthly kingdom one last opportunity to believe in Christ or reject Him. After 1000 years of peace and righteousness, with the world as it should be, will they "have this Man to reign over" them (Luke 19:14)? The answer from the unbelieving world will be a resounding "No!"

Many think that the world can be fixed through politics and human government. If we just get this political ruler or that political ruler in office, then everything will be all right. It's a gross understatement to call that wishful thinking. Even when the perfect Ruler reigns over the world for 1000 years, the world will still choose evil. Even if the world were all that it could be, people would still reject Christ. It all stems from the heart of mankind and shows that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9).

Christ can change the heart. For us under grace, when we trust in Christ, believing that He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:3,4), God creates a new nature in us (2 Cor. 5:17). By this "inward man" being "renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16) through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, Christ can transform our hearts and lives (Rom. 12:1,2).





# REFLECTION ON PURPOSE *in 2 Timothy*

A message preached at the 50th annual Bible Conference of the BBF this past June in Tipp City, Ohio.

PASTOR JEFFSEEKINS  
BBS Board Member

**E**arlier this year, we attended my parents' 65th wedding anniversary. We did a lot of reflecting over those three days! Some of the reflection was formal, as each of us 'kids' honored our parents. But most was informal! Much of it was belly-laughing hilarious as we reflected on our family history!

It seems that the older I get the more I reflect. Being close to the age Paul was when he wrote this letter, I get his reflection, and his purpose in writing. We know his life was purposeful (2 Tim. 3:10), so this, his final letter, was *particularly* purposeful. That purpose, passing the baton of ministry to Timothy, comes through very clearly in this letter. And we'll see it's tied to reflection as Paul remembers people and recounts incidents.

My children all ran track. Although every race my children ran was exciting, the relays seem to top all races for drama and excitement. While none of their 4x100 races were of the 40-second Olympic speed class, they seemed

to be over in a flash! Though *speed* is necessary in a relay, successfully passing the baton is *essential*. A dropped baton has taken many speedy teams out of medal contention, as it did for the dominant US men's team in the 2008 Olympics! Relay racers practice the exchange with great detail. They study where to stand, when to start, when and where to reach, when to pass, who's responsible for what, and how many steps, all the while staying in the lane and completing the handoff at full speed in the 20 meter changeover box!

Paul used the illustration of a race in this letter when he told Timothy he had finished his course (4:7). But there's no hint that *Timothy* had finished, rather that he was still running and needed to get fired up. The word for "stir up" (1:6) comes from a Greek word (ἀναζωοποιρέω) meaning *fire*, *live*, and *up*. Can't you just hear the coach or cheerleader in Paul, telling Timothy: "Let's get *fired up!*" The baton was coming his way!

## Commands Based on Paul's Reflections

So, we will find reflection with the purpose of passing the ministry baton in this letter. We'll also find that the reflection resulted in commands to Timothy. We'll endeavor to show the connection between the two through this letter.

In the first chapter, Paul began reflecting as he looked to the roots of faith (1:3-5). Note the reflective wording: "as my forefathers did, I remember you, being mindful, remembering the faith in your grandmother and mother." This shows the *purposefulness* of his reflection. And as part of his reflecting, Paul challenged Timothy to *get fired up* (v. 6) and, *with purpose*, tap the power of God as he commanded him to be a fellow-sufferer (συγκακοπαθῶ—*suffer and evil and with*) with him in the gospel (v. 8).

## God's Saving Purpose

As he reflected on the power of God, he began to praise and worship Him for His purposeful saving work (v. 9)! While we often focus on salvation as to what we get out of it—and we get a lot with our eternal life relationship forever with God—we can forget that God saved us by His grace *and for His purpose!* A glimpse of that saving purpose is found in the glorious second chapter of Ephesians. There we find that God, who is rich in mercy, with great love not only saved us by His grace and through faith, *He saved us with an eternal plan* to display "the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness" for eternity (Eph. 2:7).

The roots of faith are centered in the gospel (2 Tim. 1:10), which reminded Paul that God committed that gospel to him as the preacher, apostle, and teacher of the Gentiles (v. 11). This in turn caused him to command Timothy to *hold fast* the gospel baton (v. 13), which is that "good thing," that deposit of truth, that Paul gave him (v. 14). Because—as Paul remembered—there were some who *didn't* hold fast, such as Hermogenes (v. 15). Yet there were others who did, such as the refreshing Onesiphorus (v. 16). Paul wasted no time emphasizing that the race was on!



## Grace Empowered

The second chapter jumps right into a series of commands that flow from remembering those who did and those who didn't hold fast at the close of chapter 1. "Therefore" (2:1) provides the link between the contexts.

"My son" is reflection, and because of that family reflection, he begins this series of commands to this receiver of the baton: "Be strong in grace!"

The word "strong" (v. 1) is a compound word ἐνδυναμῶ from *power* and *in*. It's a present tense command, indicating continuous



action! The passive voice confirms that this power is from another, namely God. A literal rendering of this command would be, “You be continually empowered by the grace.” The power of God’s grace is a must for living the Christian life and serving our God. There is no time in our lives that we don’t need the power of God’s grace! Power and grace are inseparable in 2 Corinthians 12:9,10.

The second command arising from reflection uses the aorist tense, the strongest form of command. You commit! To me, this is the key verse in this letter! This strong command is for us to pass the baton! The word *commit* easily has the idea of passing the baton as it comes from “place” and “with.” Timothy was to place the baton of Paul’s gospel with others who would continue to pass it on! He was to place it in their hand in the changeover box! The recipients are to be those who can also make the exchange. Are you passing the baton to those who will also pass it?

### **No Trophy to Shelve**

Paul’s gospel, the gospel we’re so taken with, isn’t a trophy for a shelf, but a life and message to be passed on! We can and should take each of these commands given Timothy to heart, personally.

Endure hardship (v. 3) is made of the words *suffer* and *evil* (κακοπαθῆω). We clearly see in this letter that as Paul suffered for the gospel, he expected others who take the baton to suffer evil too!

The command to consider (v. 7) is the common word for *think, understand, and perceive*.

“Remember” (v. 8) is a command *to remember Paul’s gospel*. The words “my gospel” are true reflection! Our running illustration goes well with verse 9, that the Word is not now, nor ever can be, bound. Paul’s optimism in the Word is based on the Lord Himself!

Timothy’s baton responsibility was to remind his listeners (v. 14) *with a charge*, just like Paul was charging him! A literal rendition of these words would be, “Remind while charging them” remind them about unprofitable word wars that destroy hearers!

### **Be Diligent— Judgment is Coming**

Be diligent (v. 15). This is a command to reflect on future judgment where we’ll all present ourselves to God! This word translated “study” (στοιβάω) in our KJV is commonly translated “diligent.” The old English idea was to “make it a study” in the sense of giving your all. It doesn’t mean study in the sense of studying your Bible! Timothy was to give his all, or be diligent to be an approved worker to God! In context it has to do with rightly dividing the Word, because the only way a worker is going to be found faithful today is if he or she will be in line with God’s Word for today! For instance, there’s no reward for being diligent in offering animal sacrifices today! Just as there’s no approved diligence in water baptism, speaking in tongues, or anointing the sick with oil while praying for healing! However, there *will be* approval and reward for diligence in walking by faith and recognizing we’re under grace, not law!

Paul commanded Timothy to shun (v. 16) things that spread ungodliness and destroy faith, like teaching others they missed the rapture, as Hymenaeus and Philetus did (v. 17)!

The two related commands in verse 22 both fit the racing illustration! Paul commanded him to run purposefully from youthful lusts and run after (pursue) pure-hearted things like those who call on the Lord!

The command to avoid questions that lead to strife (v. 23) was not to avoid standing for the truth! He was to avoid the unanswerable, or questions that just lead to argument! Winning an argument rarely wins the lost! Who cares if Adam had a bellybutton? Bring your discussions back to the gospel, back to Scripture, or avoid them!

The exhortation “Don’t quarrel” (v. 24), though not a command, corroborates the idea of avoiding questions that lead to strife and winning the lost.

All these commands and directions flow from Paul’s experience, thus they all stem from his reflection on life and ministry!

### **Peril from Truth Resisters**

In reflecting about God’s revelation to him about the future in chapter 3, Paul warned Timothy with the command to “know” (v. 1) about the perilous times ahead. The last days of the dispensation of grace will be filled with self-loving, pleasure-seeking people. That’s not to say these types of people aren’t around now! They have been around in every generation! But it leads to a command that is

applicable to us right now—turn away!

He commanded Timothy to turn away from the truth resisters who will come, and who were just like Jannes and Jambres, Pharaoh’s magicians, in Moses’ day (v. 5-9)! We’re to turn from these types of people and attitudes today.

### **Childhood Reflections and Commands**

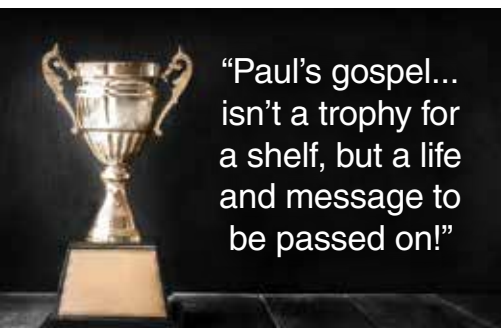
In reflection, Paul identified nine areas in which Timothy followed him, from doctrine to persecutions. And then he again predicted how evil men would advance, which led him to the next command, which is that he was to be the opposite of these evil men!

He commanded him to continue or remain in the way he was going (v. 14). He was to continue to follow Paul. Paul reflected on Timothy’s childhood in the Scriptures (v. 15). Speaking of the Scriptures led him to give us the solid truth that the Scriptures are God-breathed and profitable for equipping God’s men, like Timothy and us!

There are reports that today’s young adults of Generation Z aren’t holding to the Scriptures. Could it be that the baton hasn’t been passed like it was to Timothy from previous generations? No matter what your generation label, the key verse in this book—2:2—commands you to be a baton passer!

With the emphasis on the Word of God, its value and work in our lives, as a backdrop, Paul continued to reflect on the Word which moved him to a series of commands about the Word in chapter 4.

“Charge” in verse 1 is not a command, but another sober reminder that we will all stand before the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ! It’s intricately tied to the command to preach the Word! We’re charged to preach or herald *the Word*, not our wisdom, charm, psychology, or other humanism. The Word needs to be heard! Founded on that command we have four more commands to reinforce it.



Be “instant” (v. 2) is from the words *stand* and *upon*. Other translations are *ready* and *prepared*, like the soldier who was ready with reason and strength to rescue Paul from the mob in the temple (Acts 23:27). With the grammar and this context, the thought is to stand on the Word all the time, in every season.

The command to “reprove” (v. 2) is also translated *rebuke*, so it could be confused. But this word looks at the cause and has the thought to reprove with sufficient cause. The command to rebuke, on the other hand, has the idea of assigning blame. “Exhort” (v. 2) can consistently be translated *encourage* and be applied to a variety of needs and contexts.

This verse motivates me in pastoral ministry. But my

motivation is not just preaching the Word because of the rest of this verse! With a strong emphasis on the Word, I’m convinced that each of the commands following “preach the Word” show how the Word is to be used, or how it works.

### **Preaching Backed by Patient Teaching**

But look at how this verse addresses the attitude of the preacher! And that’s often overlooked in this context. That attitude is “long suffering” or *patience*. Great preachers of the Word must have great patience toward their hearers! Spiritual lives aren’t perfected in a few sermons! Much to the chagrin of us preachers, only a small percentage of a sermon is retained. But evidence of the Spirit’s fruit of patience works with the heralded Word to make an eternal impact! Our hearers are first God’s children! And God uses His Word in their lives. So we who bear the message must be patient and allow God’s Word to reprove, rebuke, and exhort!

Finally, the method for preaching and heralding God’s Word is *teaching*. Herald the Word with teaching or doctrine! Stand upon it! Let it reprove, rebuke, and exhort as we patiently wait for it to work in the lives of the hearers!

To further reassure Timothy of the value of the heralded Word, he warned that itchy-eared teachers would lead God’s people to fables (v. 3,4)! And in light of that, he commanded Timothy to be watchful (v. 5) and endure things like Paul did (3:10-11).

He commanded Timothy to do the work of an evangelist (4:5).

An evangelist not only shares the gospel, *but* also inspires and teaches others how to share it! That's taking the baton and passing it on! That's fulfilling his ministry!


### Paul's Inspiring Diligence

Those commands about taking the baton make more sense within the context of Paul expecting he would soon finish his race (v. 7)! Hopefully you can imagine Paul heading to the changeover box at full speed, ready to hand the baton to Timothy, and urging him to give his all (that's the same Greek word as *study* in 2:15) to come to him quickly (v. 9)! His team was shrinking from desertion (Demas) and other events, and to top it off, the opposing team (Alexander) was doing harm. Lest

you think of a mere elbow on the turn, this was an enemy of the gospel, harming the mouthpiece of the gospel of the grace of God, the apostle Paul!

The final command comes from reminiscing about others as he sent greetings to Aquilla and Priscilla, Onesiphorus, Erastus, Trophimus. The mention of others showed Timothy that he wasn't alone! He was part of a team.

My son, Justin, ran a personal best on the anchor leg of his last high school 4x400 relay. The baton had been passed at speed, and the team was cheered and awarded.

As you reflect on your race, are you able to say you are diligently giving your all to pass the baton? 



## LIFE-SAVERS

**"The world passeth away" (1 John 2:17).**

**"The whole world lieth in wickedness (1 John 5:19).**

Christians who spend their time and energy in social service, civic reform, programs for the uplift of the community, etc., forget that this world is like a sinking ship. They are wasting their time and energy trying to save the wreck instead of saving individuals from the wreck.

Paul lived in a day when politics were corrupt, when power trampled righteousness under foot, when society was degraded, when purity was laughed at, and immorality was exalted. He saw what was called "art and culture" dragging thousands down as it tempted them from statues that almost lived, and from writings and pictures so vile that they were only surpassed by the actual immorality from Nero's court down.

Yet you never find him taking part in political campaigns, nor urging social reform. His great aim was to present the Lord Jesus Christ as the One to whom individuals must fly for salvation.

—C. R. Stam



## Question Box

*"If someone does despite to the Spirit of grace, will they lose their salvation (Heb. 10:29)?"*

**"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy...of how much sorer punishment... shall he be thought worthy, who hath...done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (Heb. 10:28,29).**

The only other time the phrase *spirit of grace* is used in the Bible is in Zechariah 12:10:

**"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications..."**

After unsaved Jews in Jerusalem crucified the Lord, God poured His Spirit of grace "upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem" (cf. Acts 2:17,18). So when Hebrews 10:29 asks about the fate of any who "hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace," it is asking about the fate of the unbelievers in Israel who blasphemed the Spirit by stoning a Spirit-filled man (Acts 6:5; 7:51). As the Lord predicted, this was an unpardonable sin (Matt. 12:31,32).

However, none of this has anything to do with members of the Body of Christ, living in the dispensation of grace. Blaspheming the Spirit today is *not* an unpardonable sin (*see page 4 for further information*).

—Pastor Kurth



## GRACE FAMILY BIBLE CHURCH CONFERENCE

**Dates:** November 3-4, 2018

**Location:** *Grace Family Bible Church*  
2243 Mill Road, Duncansville, Pennsylvania

**Speaker:** Pastor Kevin Sadler, *BBS President*

For additional information, please contact:

Pastor Jim Zaebst at  
(814) 327-3028 or (814) 696-4366



# BBS Letter Excerpts

## From Facebook:

"Thank you for sharing Kevin's *Transformed by Grace* on Facebook!"

## From our Inbox:

"I've been watching *Transformed by Grace* on YouTube and enjoy it immensely."

## From Missouri:

"We appreciate the Bible study program that actually teaches the correct gospel for this time in history, as presented in Paul's letters...We look forward to every Monday now at 5:00 p.m. on DISH, when we get to enjoy another good program!"

## From Texas:

"I want the *Berean Searchlight* and a resource catalogue. I'm enclosing my gift...I watch your TV program on CTN. It is a blessing to me and my family. Jesus loves you all and so do we!"

## From our Inbox:

"What has happened to Pastor Ken Lawson's Bible studies...will he resume his studies?...have watched all 99 of his studies...he is such a good teacher...enjoy him so much." (Pastor Lawson's studio was damaged by a storm, but he should be back on our site soon! -Ed).

## From our Inbox:

"Thank you for this excellent *Two Minutes* message of a hard to understand concept ["How does faith establish the law?" (Rom. 3:31)]."

## From North Carolina:

"We are a part of a grace group that just finished up the *Things That Differ* book. My husband and I were from Maryland and could never find a church or assembly that taught these truths!"

## From Nigeria:

"I was inspired by Dr. Stam's book on *Acts Dispensationally Considered* and his commentary on the Book of Romans. This was over 30 years ago. Without having been to *Berean Bible Institute*, I was able to study under the institute through Dr. Stam's books." (Pastor Stam's books are certainly a Bible education in and of themselves! -Ed).

## From Kenya:

"*Thank you...*for the commentary of Revelation by Paul Sadler...I am sure that this will help me as well as others to understand the great truth in the Book of Revelation. I read the first and the second volume, and I was so much enlightened. I was able to prepare lessons for my Revelation class at *Berean Grace School of Ministry* in Mombasa."

## From our Inbox:

"You are very confused...How about I go over it one more time...Wow. How dense can anyone be?"

## From Washington:

"My *Searchlight* magazines are almost as worn as my Bible! Praise God for all your efforts!"

### From Tennessee:

"I asked three other men, two of them are pastors, and...nobody explained it as well as you did, or gave us the Jeremiah verse. So I've shared all your answers with them..."

### From our Inbox:

"You did such an excellent job in responding to my first question, hope you do not mind that I have another...Thank you for being there for my son all these years while he is incarcerated, and for myself."

### From Georgia:

"I have been reading your *Two Minutes* every morning for a few years now. I have gotten a few other people to subscribe as well. I have been a rightly divided student for many years, but mostly going it on my own. I have started to review your website resources for the first time recently, and am very energized listening and re-listening to the sermons...understanding this systematic approach to dispensationalism is so powerful and fulfilling."

### From California:

"God has allowed me to teach what I have been learning, much of it from the *Searchlight*. Some of it I've even used in the monthly bulletin that I've...printed for the last three years...patterned after you!"

### From Texas:

"My Bible study friends and I give thanks often for the gift of the *Berean Bible Society* as a resource for teachings and right division publications. Our group of ladies is small, and we live in an area where we do not have access to a church home that rightly divides the Word."

### From India:

"Thanking you from India. You sent two *Berean Searchlights*, February and March 2018. Bless you."

### From our Inbox:

"Just a note to let you know that Michelle and I have been listening to your old sermons the last couple of weeks. We have been needing some spiritual food, and your 2008 Colossians series is just what the doctor ordered! It is so nice to listen to a familiar and friendly voice, and we feel like we are right there with your people worshipping alongside you." (From *Things To Come Mission* missionaries Pat and Michelle Kilgo. -Ed).

### From Maine:

"I am so blessed by the articles in your monthly *Searchlight* publication. It is just a joy to read the various articles and Biblical lessons...we have a small group meeting weekly, helping others learning to study God's Word rightly divided."

### From Iowa:

"Over the last few months, through Scripture study and the resources BBS supplies, the importance of studying the Bible rightly divided is becoming much more clear."

### From our Inbox:

"Here's my echo! After years of sitting under denominational teaching, I have come to the realization that the confusion lies with no distinction between Kingdom believers and the Body of Christ. Most people believe Paul preached the same gospel as the twelve. I stand with you, proclaiming the Gospel of Grace and the revelation of the mystery."



"These [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."  
—Acts 17:11

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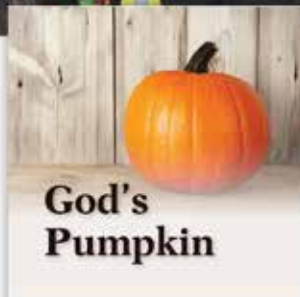


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## Heads up!

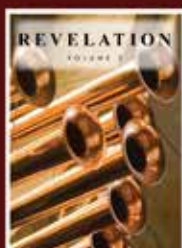
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### PASTORAL EPISTLES



*Continue this issue's studies  
in Timothy and Titus.*

### Pastoral Epistles

by C.R. Stam

Hardcover 300 pages

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October 31, 2018**



# News and Announcements

**Join the Team!** Our new *Transformed by Grace* television program is reaching into homes all across the nation with the transforming power of Pauline grace. Why not help us reach even *more* people by telling a friend about us? You can download an informational flyer from our website that lists our TV stations, times, and the cities in which they appear. Just click on “Bible Study” and “Transformed by Grace” and “Printable Station List” and you’re in business. Print some out today and stash them in your Bible, in your car, and by your front door. Don’t let anyone who rings your doorbell go away without knowing where to tune to be transformed by grace!

**Don’t Forget!** Our 24/7 BBS Network channel is now streaming on Roku TV. Roku is an inexpensive device that plugs into your TV, and uses the internet in your home to play videos from channels/apps. Roku is the leading streaming device on the market, and is connected to more than 39 million televisions. Many newer smart TVs come with Roku already installed on them. Our channel on Roku is available not only in the USA, but all over the world. Check us out, and be sure to tell your friends about this opportunity to be transformed by God’s grace as well.

**New Texas Grace Church:** If you live near the east Texas town of Huntington, our good friend Pastor Philip Thomas would like to invite you to help fill up their newly acquired church building! Nestled half way between Dallas and Houston, Huntington is close enough to the Louisiana border that grace Creoles and Cajuns might want to pay them an occasional visit as well. For further information contact Brother Thomas at (936) 876-2812 or (903) 388-1912.

**Are you a pastor looking for a church?** If so, *Grace Memorial Church* in Edinburg, Illinois, might be looking for you! Situated so close to historic Springfield you can almost hear the echoes of Honest Abe’s speeches, these faithful grace believers have stood historically for Paul’s gospel for many a decade. If you’d like to learn more about your opportunity to take a historic stand for God’s truth of your own, contact Margaret Boggs at boggsmanda212@outlook.com, or at (217) 725-5888.

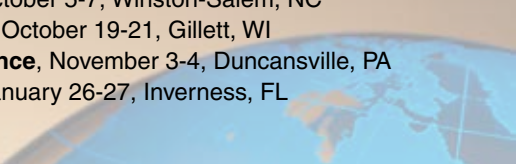
## UPCOMING CONFERENCES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**BBS Regional Conference**, October 5-7, Winston-Salem, NC

**NGYC Fall Youth Retreat**, October 19-21, Gillett, WI

**Grace Family Bible Church Conference**, November 3-4, Duncansville, PA

**BBF Winter Conference**, January 26-27, Inverness, FL





# Tracts & Teaching Materials

(This is only a partial price list. For a full price list please see our website or contact BBS.)

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## **Pray for Your Loved Ones**

"Not until you have talked to God about them  
will you be ready to talk to them about God."

—C.R. Stam (1908—2003)